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IV.—ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS

(1) POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTION OF PRESIDENTS OF PANCHAYATS.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member, Sri T. P. Alagamuthu, has given notice of the following adjournment motion :—

“ That the House be adjourned to discuss a matter of urgent public importance viz., the stalemate and dislocation in the Panchayat Administration in the State consequent on the postponement of election of Presidents of Panchayats ”.

I do not think that it comes under an adjournment motion.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, I would suggest that if the hon. Member puts a short notice question, it can be answered in two or three days.

MR. SPEAKER : That is right. I withhold consent to the adjournment motion.

திரு. கரு. சீமைச்சாமி: Sir, on a point of information, இன்று பத்திரிகைகளில் மார்ச் 20-ம் தேதி நடக்க வேண்டிய பஞ்சாயத்துத் தேர்தல்கள் ஏப்ரல் 14, 15 தேதிகளுக்கு மாற்றப் பட்டிருக்கிறது என்று வந்திருக்கிறது. அது உண்மையா?

கனம் திரு. எம். பக்தவத்சலம் : அந்தச் செய்தி சரியல்ல. குறுகிய காலக் கேள்வி ஒன்று கொடுத்தால் எந்தத் தேதியில் நடக்கும் என்பன போன்ற விவரங்களையெல்லாம் கொடுக்கலாம்; உப கேள்விகளும் கேட்கலாம்.

(2) CLOSURE OF COLLEGES AND HIGH SCHOOLS.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member, Sri Alagamuthu, has also given notice of another adjournment motion, namely :—

‘ That the House be adjourned to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the dislocation in the educational system consequent on the closure of colleges and high schools till the 5th March 1965.’

This is also a policy matter which cannot be discussed in an adjournment motion. It can be raised during the discussion on the Education Demand. Therefore, I withhold my consent to this adjournment motion also.

V.—CALLING ATTENTION TO GRAVE FAMINE CONDITIONS IN TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT.

SRI M. S. SELVARAJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to call the attention of the Hon. Minister for Food to the following matter of urgent public importance, viz., the grave famine conditions prevailing in Tirunelveli district on account of the complete failure of monsoon rain and the consequent failure of both wet and dry crops and the scarcity of drinking water in several taluks and the measures to be taken such as remission of taxes, rushing of food grains, deepening of wells and providing work to the agricultural population.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair.)

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THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, A gist of the seasonal conditions prevailing in the various parts of Tirunelveli district and the relief measures already taken and proposed to be taken is given below :

The North East Monsoon which gives the bulk of the rainfall in Tirunelveli district was a complete failure in this fasli year and consequently some areas have been affected very badly. Though the North East Monsoon set in, in the months of September-October 1964, there was no sustained rainfall in the succeeding months. The months of December-January are regarded as the most crucial period in determining the prospects of both wet and dry crops in Tirunelveli district, but there was a complete failure of rains during this period. The normal monthly rainfall of this district is 814.8 M.M. As against an average monthly rainfall of 651 M.M. received from June 1963 to December 1963 in this district, the average monthly rainfall during the same period in 1964 was only 536.6 M.M. and there is a deficiency of 278.2 M.M. compared to the normal monthly rainfall of 814.8 M.M. The deficiency is relatively large in the months of November and December this year than in the previous year. As a result of the failure of rain, most of the rainfed tanks have not received adequate supply and a few tanks did not receive any supply at all. The Board Member for Land Revenue has recently visited this district and has studied the condition of crops there.

The extent of Pishanam wet cultivation (1st crop) up to December 1964 was 1,93,172 acres, but the crop in an extent of 1,01,390 acres only is expected to come up, while the crop in the remaining extent of 91,782 acres is expected to wither. The areas served by Thambaraparani river alone would come up for harvest. The paddy crops under rainfed tanks and other sources are withering. The Collector has issued instructions for granting seasonal remission for wet lands where crops have failed and for lands left waste for want of water supply excluding mamool waste topes, etc. The probable amount of remission is Rs. 8,36,830. He has also instructed the Tahsildars to suspend temporarily the collection of amounts which are sure to be remitted at Jamabandi.

Dry crops are raised in almost the entire arable dry area. The average extent of area cultivated by the dry crops is 8,50,054 acres. The main dry crops raised are cumbu, ragi, cholam and cotton. The adverse effect of the failure of the North East Monsoon is more pronounced in Nanguneri taluk and Kovilpatti Division. Except in the above area, dry crops in other areas have come up for harvest with fair outturn of 5 annas and above and famine conditions do not prevail there.

Nanguneri taluk.—Out of the total extent of 52,400 acres brought under dry crop cultivation, an extent of 8,323 acres which was cultivated with chillies and plantains through well water has yielded a fair outturn. In the remaining extent of 44,077 acres the crops has completely withered. The Collector has recommended

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that land revenue together with local cess and local cess surcharge leviable under Sections 115 and 116 of the Madras Panchayat Act may be remitted. In anticipation of Government sanction, the Collector has postponed the collection of land revenue, cesses and local cess surcharge for the current fasli. The probable amount involved in this recommendation is Rs. 49,826 towards land revenue and cess and Rs. 1,55,811 towards local cess surcharge.

The Collector has also made the following proposals for providing employment to labour and for increasing irrigation facilities :—

(1) that New Well Subsidy scheme may be extended to this taluk, that the loan amount may be enhanced from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 3,000 with 25 per cent subsidy and that an amount of Rs. 6 lakhs for 200 wells may be allotted;

(2) that 7 Minor Irrigation works may be improved at an estimated cost of Rs. 55,000—;

(3) that 15 road works may be executed at an estimated cost of Rs. 5,56,000.

Kovilpatti division.—The adverse effects on crops in Kovilpatti and Sankarankoil taluks due to failure of monsoon are not so severe as in Nanguneri taluk. Yet the condition of these crops is not very bright. Millet crops are the main stay of the ryots in this division. They mainly utilise them for domestic consumption. Due to poor yield there will be no surplus grains for marketing in the majority of cases. The standing cotton crop is also not fair. As the rural population has no other employment except cultivation, the economic condition of the ryots is poor. The Collector has therefore recommended that the collection of dry assessment and cesses including local cess surcharge for Kovilpatti Division due for this fasli (1374) may be suspended. Pending receipt of orders of Government under B.S.O. 14(3) (1), the Collector has postponed the collection of land revenue, cesses and local cess surcharge. The amounts involved in this postponement are Rs. 13,81,058 towards land revenue and cess and Rs. 3,49,268 towards Local cess surcharge.

The Collector has also made the following proposals for providing employment to labour and for increasing irrigation facilities :—

(1) that an allotment of Rs. 18 lakhs may be made for 450 wells at the rate of Rs. 4,000 with 25 per cent subsidy under New Well Subsidy scheme ;

(2) that an amount of Rs. 5,06,300 may be allotted for repairing Minor Irrigation Sources ;

(3) that the tanks may be repaired at an estimated cost of Rs. 5 lakhs ;

(4) that 25 road works may be taken up at an estimated cost of Rs. 4,59,200.

In view of the distressed condition of the agriculturists the Collector has also recommended the postponement of the collection

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of loan instalments from the current fasli to fasli 1375 in the concerned taluks as given below:—

					Rs.
Nanguneri taluk	...	...	...	...	3,73,844
Kovilpatti taluk	...	...	...	...	3,28,566
Sankarankoil taluk	...	...	...	...	3,25,000

The above proposals are under examination in consultation with the Board of Revenue.

As regards the scarcity of drinking water, it is reported that no difficulty is felt in rural areas. As far as Kovilpatti town is concerned, there will be no scarcity of drinking water in view of the construction of the pipe water supply work at Thoppalam Urani. There is adequate water in all the public and private drinking water wells in Kovilpatti Division. However, the condition is being carefully watched by the Collector and if the situation warrants, action will be taken for the deepening of wells. I may, therefore, inform the House that the District authorities are taking all possible steps to grant remission to the extent permissible to the affected ryots in areas where there has been partial failure of monsoon, resulting in failure of crops.

VI.—GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET FOR 1965-66—cont.

* திரு. ரா. சுப்பிரமணியம் : கனம் உதவி சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, கனம் முதல் அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் கொண்டு வந்திருக்கிற 1965-66-ம் ஆண்டு நிதிநிலை அறிக்கையை ஆதரித்து நான் ஒரு சில வார்த்தைகள் கூற விரும்புகிறேன். 1965-66 ல் 697 லட்சம் ரூபாய் பற்றாக்குறை இருந்தபோதிலும் கூட வேறு எந்தப் புதிய வரியையும் விதிக்காமல் துண்டு விழக் கூடிய பணத்தை பழைய வரி பாக்கிகளை வசூலிப்பதின் மூலமாகவும், வரியிலிருந்து தப்புகிறவர்களை கண்டு பிடிப்பதின் மூலமாகவும், மோட்டார் வரி, விற்பனை வரி மின்சாரத் தீர்வை ஆகியவற்றின் மூலம் நாம் வசூலிக்கக் கூடிய பணத்திலிருந்து சரிகட்டிவிடலாம் என்ற அபிப்பிராயத்தோடு எந்தவித புது வரியும் விதிக்காமல் இருந்திருப்பது வரவேற்கத்தக்கது. அத்துடன் நான்காம் நிதிக் கமிஷனிடம் நம் நிதித் தேவையை எடுத்துச் சொல்லி அதிக அளவில் நிதியைப் பெறலாம் என்ற நம்பிக்கையையும் தெரிவித்திருக்கிறார்கள். துண்டு விழும் எல்லாத் தொகையையுமே கூடுமான வரையில் மத்திய சர்க்காரிடம் எடுத்து வற்புறுத்தி அவர்களிடமிருந்து அதிகமான பணத்தைப் பெறுவதற்கு சர்க்கார் எல்லாவித முயற்சிகளும் எடுத்துக் கொள்ள வேண்டுமென்று இத்தருணத்தில் கேட்டுக் கொள்கிறேன். மூன்றாவது ஐந்தாண்டுத் திட்டத்தைப் பொறுத்த வரையில் ஏற்கெனவே நாம் திட்டமிட்டது 291 கோடி ரூபாய் அளவிற்கு. நாம் செலவழிக்க முற்பட்டது 340 கோடி ரூபாய். 49 கோடி ரூபாய் அதிகமாக செலவழிக்க வேண்டிய நிர்ப்பந்தம் நமக்கு ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. இந்த மாதிரி செலவாகும்போது அதிகப்பணத்தை எல்லாம் வளர்ச்சித் துறைக்கு முக்கியமாக செலவுசெய்து, மற்ற இனங்களிலுள்ள செலவை எல்லாம் கட்டுப்படுத்திக்கொண்டு திட்டமிட்டிருப்பது மிகவும் பாராட்டத்தக்க விஷயமாகும். அதிலும்